

Matthew 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

Analysis

Christ's forty-day fast recapitulates Israel's forty years in the wilderness, but where Israel failed through grumbling and disobedience, Christ succeeded through perfect submission to the Father. The physical weakness from fasting made Jesus vulnerable to temptation, demonstrating that He faced genuine testing in His human nature. Yet Christ's victory proves He is the true Israel who keeps covenant perfectly, securing righteousness for His people.

Historical Context

The forty-day period parallels Moses' two forty-day fasts on Sinai (Exodus 24:18, 34:28) and Israel's forty years of testing. The wilderness location echoes Israel's proving ground, making this a recapitulation of redemptive history.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's wilderness victory demonstrate that He succeeded where Israel and Adam failed?

2. What does Jesus' voluntary subjection to testing teach about His true humanity and qualification as our representative?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	νηστεύσας	ἡμέρας	τεσσαράκοντα	καὶ	νύκτας
And	when he had fasted	days	forty	And	nights
G2532	G3522	G2250	G5062	G2532	G3571
τεσσαράκοντα	ὑστερον	ἐπείνασεν			
forty	he was afterward	an hungred			
G5062	G5305	G3983			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 9:18 (Parallel theme): And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

Exodus 34:28 (Parallel theme): And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

1 Kings 19:8 (Parallel theme): And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

Luke 4:2 (Parallel theme): Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Deuteronomy 9:9 (Parallel theme): When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water:

Exodus 24:18 (Parallel theme): And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

Deuteronomy 9:25 (Parallel theme): Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

Mark 11:12 (Parallel theme): And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:

John 4:6 (Parallel theme): Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

Deuteronomy 18:18 (Parallel theme): I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

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